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Chair: Ms. Francis (Vice-Chair) ..... (Bahamas)
later: Mr. Iziraren (Vice-Chair) ..... (Morocco)

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In the absence of Mr. Cardi (Italy), Ms. Francis (Bahamas), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 25: Agriculture development, food security and nutrition (*continued*) (A/69/91-E/2014/84, A/69/279 and A/69/392; A/C.2/69/2)

1. **Mr. Pokharel** (Nepal) said that agriculture, food security and nutrition were vital for supporting livelihoods and socioeconomic development, and had impacts on poverty, inequality, hunger, health and the environment. His delegation emphasized the importance of the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security and welcomed the proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals under Goal 2.

2. There were still 1.2 billion people living in extreme poverty and 842 million people suffering from hunger. Around 40 per cent of children suffered from malnutrition and stunting globally. Food losses and waste, estimated at 1.3 billion tons annually, presented another serious concern. Given the mutually reinforcing link between agriculture development, poverty eradication and protection of the environment, significant efforts must be made to ensure sustainable food production and to resolve related problems at all levels.

3. As agriculture was the lifeline of Nepal, the Government strove to increase the sector's productivity, to enhance entrepreneurship, to develop and diversify environment-friendly agricultural technology, and to protect and promote agricultural biodiversity. Nevertheless, Nepal faced a number of challenges, such as high prices and low food supplies, labour flight, and the adverse effects of climate change. Consequently, although more than two thirds of the country's population worked in agriculture, the sector's contribution to gross domestic product (GDP) and foreign trade was only approximately one third and less than 15 per cent, respectively. Nepal also faced rapid loss of land fertility, decline in crop yields and food insecurity, which greatly impacted its population, especially women, children, the elderly and those living in rural, remote and geographically disadvantaged areas.

4. The right to food could be guaranteed only when food security was properly addressed in terms of food availability, supply, access and consumption. The Zero Hunger Challenge was an important initiative in that regard, covering hunger, malnutrition and food security in a holistic manner.

5. The current situation of food insecurity was largely the result of low investment, the neglect of structural transformation of the agricultural sector, and failure to use appropriate technology. As enhancing productivity was essential to achieving sustainable agriculture, Nepal called on developed countries and international financial institutions to increase assistance to cover social safety nets, thus complementing efforts made by national Governments in sharing best practices for enhancing agricultural production, including the transfer and use of appropriate, affordable, sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural technologies. Such action would require the fulfilment of official development assistance commitments, greater investment in sustainable agricultural and rural development and the application of local knowledge and supportive international trade rules. Agriculture and food security should be considered a priority in the post-2015 development agenda and in relation to the sustainable development goals, taking into account the specific needs and challenges faced by the least developed countries, such as Nepal.

6. **Mr. Moussa** (Niger) said that agriculture was Niger's largest economic sector, representing more than 40 per cent of GDP. However, climate hazards, traditional production methods and high demographic pressure had limited its potential. Cyclical droughts provoked recurring food crises that affected rural populations, in particular women and children, leaving the country dependent on foreign assistance for food security, and ultimately negatively impacting the balance of payments.

7. Niger had therefore launched a National Mechanism for the Prevention and Management of Disasters and Food Crises, which operated in close cooperation with technical and financial partners to ensure food security. Drawing on research designed to achieve domestic food sufficiency, Niger's President had launched the "Les Nigeriens Nourrissent les Nigeriens" (Nigeriens Feeding Nigeriens) initiative to strengthen national food production, supply and resilience. The initiative focused on five key areas of change: increasing and diversifying production and fish stocks; ensuring a regular supply to rural and urban markets; boosting the resilience of vulnerable groups to climate change, food crises and natural disasters; improving nutrition; and

reforming food security and agricultural development. A number of institutional, technical and financial mechanisms had in turn been developed to achieve those objectives.

8. Niger's hope of realizing food security was based on the country's many assets, including considerable water resources, a vibrant young population, large swaths of arable land and firm political will. Niger was one of the first ten African countries to have implemented some of the objectives contained in the 2003 Maputo Declaration, in particular by allocating 10 per cent of its national budget to agriculture and by attaining an annual rate of agricultural growth of 6 per cent.

9. The post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals would need to promote smart agriculture for future generations in order to feed the 9 billion individuals that would be alive in 2050. In that context, his delegation welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 68/309 on the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals as the basis for upcoming intergovernmental processes to elaborate a post-2015 development agenda. Nevertheless, and without wishing to re-open the negotiations that had taken place within the Open Working Group, his delegation wished to emphasize that the interdependence of water, land, energy, and technology — all indispensable for agricultural development — must be considered when elaborating agricultural objectives. Especially relevant in that regard were the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; the International Decade for Action "Water for Life"; the arrangements for a facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies; and the Sustainable Energy for All initiative.

10. **Mr. Gumende** (Mozambique) said that despite the efforts of the United Nations to maintain the momentum of efforts to address the underlying causes of hunger and malnutrition, and thus accomplish the goals agreed at the Millennium Summit and in the Zero Hunger Challenge, results were lacking. Less than a year from the date set to achieve the goal of halving the proportion of people who suffered from hunger, one out of eight people in the world was still deprived of the basic human right to food. Moreover, the much-needed increase in agricultural production had been attained at the expense of factors that were crucial for its own sustainability. Countries had been deprived of valuable human capital; sustainable development could thrive only if agricultural development, food security and nutrition were an integral part of national development strategies.

11. Some 88 per cent of Mozambicans lived in rural areas and relied on agriculture as a source of income. Cognizant of the importance of sustainable agriculture for development and poverty eradication, Mozambique had developed a poverty eradication strategy that was people-centred and defined agriculture as the basis for national development, in line with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme. The strategy also took into account that only 5 per cent of farmers used improved seeds and fertilizers and 12 per cent of plots were farmed with animal-drawn ploughs.

12. Mozambique had adopted a number of policies and measures to support food production and cash crops, to supply agricultural inputs to farmers, to provide crop protection, to create institutional capacity and promote research that would boost resilience to natural hazards, and to increase productivity. In particular, the Strategic Plan for the Development of the Agrarian Sector for the period 2010-2020 aimed to increase food production, broaden market access through improved rural infrastructure, encourage the sustainable use of natural resources, and develop institutional capacities. As the approach was based on the value chain, its implementation took into account all activities from agricultural inputs to marketing that added value to agricultural products.

13. The Strategic Plan also covered the construction and rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure and the adoption of new technologies for water management. Overall the Strategic Plan aimed to build synergies to transform the agricultural sector from predominantly subsistence agriculture to more competitive agriculture practices, thus improving investor confidence and mobilizing resources for further investment.

14. As a result of the actions undertaken, Mozambique had experienced significant growth in agricultural production and productivity and a considerable decrease in poverty in rural areas, thus contributing to the attainment of national and international agreed social goals. Experience confirmed that community empowerment — one of the pillars of agricultural production — was essential, also because

it had the capacity to improve the welfare of vulnerable groups, and to protect the environment.

15. As Mozambique strove to achieve sustainable agriculture development and to halve the percentage of its population suffering from hunger, international cooperation, both bilateral and multilateral and from developed and developing partners, was of paramount importance to strengthen synergies and complement national interventions, particularly to boost resilience to climate change.

16. **Mr. Agamah** (Nigeria) said that agriculture and food security had been adversely affected by the global economic crisis and by the unpredictable effects of climate change. There was an urgent need to deliver the poorest and most vulnerable from extreme poverty and hunger. Although the food crisis was global, African countries were among the worst affected, owing in part to low productivity, meagre rural incomes and high rates of malnutrition.

17. The current crisis should be regarded as an opportunity to make agriculture, which was key to sustainable food security, a priority, especially in Africa. Nigeria called for regional and international support to strengthen the capacity of developing countries with a view to enhancing the production, productivity and nutritional quality of food crops, as well as the promotion of sustainable practices in agricultural activities. Noting the considerable interest generated by the Zero Hunger Challenge, he said that further concerted efforts were needed at all levels to ensure that present and future generations would have access to affordable food.

18. Food security and nutrition were both global challenges and national priorities. Nigeria had developed an Agricultural Transformation Agenda, which aimed to create over 3.5 million jobs by focusing on key agricultural value chains and to provide additional income for Nigerian farmers, particularly smallholder farmers. Furthermore, his Government had outlined a number of medium- and long-term strategies to ensure food security, including soft loans to university graduates interested in farming, support for rural agricultural development programmes and irrigation schemes, a National Food Security Programme to boost domestic production of food crops and the development of agro-allied industries, initiatives to encourage the sustainable use of water and the distribution of improved crop varieties.

19. Given the pivotal role of the agricultural sector in the Nigerian economy, the Government had taken steps to address existing challenges by offering low-interest rate loans, strengthening extension services, providing adequate rural and value chain infrastructure, and maintaining a database of farmers for capacity-building purposes. Agricultural development and food security remained fundamental to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Nigeria therefore called for additional investment in agricultural research and development, and in agricultural production, as well as a holistic, inclusive approach to sustainable development that promoted agriculture and food systems.

20. **Mr. Bamba** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that despite the progress accomplished over the past 20 years, 842 million persons still suffered from chronic hunger, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia; agriculture development, food security and nutrition therefore remained major challenges to be urgently addressed in the context of national and international development agendas.

21. In Côte d'Ivoire, agriculture and food security were of utmost concern, as demonstrated by his Government's National Agricultural Investment Plan, established under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme. The Investment Plan had five major objectives: to achieve 9 per cent agricultural growth by 2015; to reduce food insecurity to 12 per cent and improve nutrition, especially for children aged 6 to 59 months; to significantly reduce poverty, especially in rural areas; to stimulate the agro-industrial sector with a view to transforming at least 50 per cent of local agricultural products; and creating jobs, especially for young people. In preparing for the Plan's implementation, Côte d'Ivoire sought to foster an environment that would attract private investment in production, transformation and marketing; to establish rural land security for greater land access, including for women and smallholders; and to create a framework for improving nutrition. As a result, Côte d'Ivoire had become eligible in 2012 for the Group of 8 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, and had consequently established several public-private partnerships for cash crops and foodstuffs such as rice, for which the national deficit had been estimated at 50 per cent in 2012. In 2013, the Government had

distributed 3,840 kits to vulnerable households for foodstuff cultivation.

22. Food security was also necessarily linked to the transport, distribution and price of food. In order to provide the people of Côte d'Ivoire with sufficient, stable and affordable food supplies, his Government had begun rehabilitating water infrastructure and rural roads, and was working to limit the cost of living.

23. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire had elaborated a multisectoral plan to improve the nutrition of children and vulnerable groups. The plan sought to encourage access to healthy, balanced meals; improve knowledge regarding good nutritional practices; and build the capacity of nutritional facilities. Côte d'Ivoire had also participated in the "Scaling Up Nutrition" movement in 2013.

24. If developing countries were to achieve sustainable agriculture development and food security, national initiatives would have to be supported by international cooperation that included technology transfer and capacity-building. Consequently, Côte d'Ivoire welcomed Goal 2 of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and called for future negotiations for the post-2015 development agenda to incorporate the sustainable development goals and their means of implementation as defined in Goal 17. His delegation hoped for a speedy conclusion to the Doha Round and to the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference, owing to the close links between climate and agriculture.

25. *Mr. Iziraren (Morocco), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

26. **Mr. Pisarevich** (Belarus) said that despite there being sufficient capacity and resources in the world to ensure adequate food and good nutrition for everyone, 842 million people still suffered from chronic hunger. The disconnect between possibilities and realities was the result of uneven globalization, which had increased inequality rather than distributing benefits; the many conflicts and crises affecting the world; and the effects of climate change, which systematically undermined global food security. Since agriculture development, food security and nutrition were all dependent on other factors, it was necessary to develop a comprehensive and integrated approach to ensure the food security of future generations.

27. It was nevertheless encouraging that the close interrelationships between agriculture development, food security and nutrition were being examined holistically. His delegation supported the proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals to place such interrelated issues on the post-2015 development agenda as a separate goal with its own targets. Belarus placed great importance on strengthening national food security and was actively developing its agricultural production in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other agencies.

28. **Ms. Anate Balli** (Togo) said that Togo's agriculture sector represented about 40 per cent of GDP and employed almost 70 per cent of its total active population; it was poised to become Togo's economic driver as a result of a national programme for agricultural investment and food security. Since its launch in 2012, the programme had helped numerous farmers, livestock breeders and fishers to improve productivity. The programme likewise aimed to grant land access to the most vulnerable groups of society, especially women and young people, through a tripartite contract between landowners, the State and farmers.

29. Togo's national priorities were aligned with the strategic framework of FAO, especially with regard to the reduction of rural poverty, hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. Over the previous decade, with the exception of milled rice, which suffered from structural deficits, the food balance sheets for plant-based foodstuffs had been relatively stable, while the rate of coverage of food needs had varied between 90 per cent and 105 per cent, with significant surpluses of cereals. Thanks to such efforts, in 2013 Togo had been recognized by FAO for excellent progress in the fight against hunger.

30. Despite multisectoral efforts to strengthen food security, many populations still faced problems of food safety and availability, possibly because actions were taken independently by a multitude of public and private actors. Consequently, in 2013, Togo had launched, with the support of FAO, a project to promote the right to food and the good governance of food security and nutrition. Through that project, the Government sought to ensure the effective coordination of actions undertaken with regard to food security while continuing to rely on the support of the international community.

31. **Mr. Alemu** (Ethiopia), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, said that the agricultural and rural economy of least developed countries was subsistence-based, accounting for just 20 per cent of their aggregate GDP in 2011 and 2012, even though over 70 per cent of their populations depended on it for their livelihood. Owing to a lack of adequate investment in physical infrastructure, scientific and technological development, the agricultural sector in least developed countries faced huge challenges, such as the adverse impacts of climate change, deforestation, loss of biodiversity and declining water availability and quality.

32. While developed countries faced the challenge of preserving foodstuffs, and wasted roughly one third of all food globally produced, least developed countries food loss occurred primarily on farms, as a result of pests or lack of effective storage, or in transportation and processing. To overcome such challenges, agricultural productivity in least developed countries must increase at least threefold, with a focus on sustainably increasing smallholder yields and access to irrigation. Furthermore, development partners must provide enhanced financial and technical support for the development of the agricultural sector, as set out in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020. World Trade Organization (WTO) members should eliminate all forms of export subsidies and disciplines on all export measures with equivalent effect as provided in the Doha Work Programme, the framework adopted by the General Council of the WTO on 1 August 2004 and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration. It was also crucial for development partners to support least developed countries' efforts to establish and strengthen safety nets, such as access to agricultural finance, insurance and other risk mitigation tools. Lastly, the international community should provide least developed countries with high-yield and climate-resilient crop varieties through the transfer of appropriate technology and technical know-how.

33. A close link existed between income poverty and access to food. Although recent data showed that the world had achieved the poverty target in Goal 1 of the MDGs, progress in reducing food insecurity and malnutrition had been less encouraging. His delegation supported the Zero Hunger Challenge and called for the eradication of hunger by 2020, including by substantially increasing investment in rural infrastructure and ensuring access to safe food and emergency food assistance in all least developed countries. Moreover, his delegation called on the international community to establish a food stockholding programme or food bank for least developed countries to deal with humanitarian food emergencies or as a means to limit price volatility, which should be included in the sustainable development goals. It also called on the global community to improve the international institutional and policy environment and to reduce price volatility, including through improved information systems for stocks and production and greater transparency in commodity markets. While some of those recommendations had already been incorporated in the outcome document of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, all of them must be integrated into the post-2015 development agenda.

34. **Mr. M. Osman Sid Ahmed Mohammed Ali** (Sudan) said that there were still 852 million hungry persons in the world, most of whom lived in developing countries. The challenge of eliminating poverty, which was exacerbated by fluctuating food prices and malnutrition, especially in developing countries, was closely linked to agricultural development and food security. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) had reaffirmed the need for sustainable agricultural development to eliminate hunger and use natural resources judiciously.

35. The world faced tremendous challenges with regard to food security and agricultural production, including climate change, land degradation, droughts and floods. Food waste also continued to be a problem. It was necessary to focus on smallholder agriculture, access to markets and the elimination of protectionist policies.

36. Sudan's resources were tremendous, including 100 million acres of arable land and more than 100 million head of livestock. Agriculture accounted for 34 per cent of GDP in 2012, with 70 per cent of the population dependent on the sector.

37. Despite facing numerous challenges, Sudan, by investing in small business and other initiatives, had been able to reduce extreme poverty and hunger to 8 per cent. Sudan further hoped to resolve internal conflicts in order to focus on the sustainable

development goals; however, economic sanctions impeded the country's development.

38. **Mr. Hajilari** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the Islamic Republic of Iran considered agricultural development, food security and nutrition as essential elements for eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development. Technological development, know-how and best practices were not exclusive to any specific country or group of countries; his delegation therefore encouraged cooperation at the national, regional and international levels for global well-being and prosperity. The challenges that should be addressed collectively in a comprehensive and coordinated manner included: the as-yet unmet MDGs on poverty eradication, hunger reduction and malnutrition; the lack of sufficient investment in agricultural sectors to enhance productive capacity in developing countries; difficulties of access to agricultural product markets for developing countries; excessive food price volatility; agricultural subsidies and other trade-distorting practices; and the imposition of laws and regulations with extraterritorial impact and all other forms of coercive economic measures, including unilateral sanctions, against developing countries. The international community must work together to overcome such challenges.

39. The United Nations also had a unique role to play in coordinating action among various stakeholders in support of national development efforts, with a view to pursuing a holistic approach to the development of sustainable agriculture. His delegation supported the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, especially the incorporation of a stand-alone goal on ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture, to be considered in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

40. **Ms. Ochir** (Mongolia) said that despite some progress in reducing chronic hunger, one in eight individuals remained chronically undernourished. The international community therefore needed to redouble its efforts to meet the MDG goal on hunger and poverty eradication as part of the post-2015 development agenda. Mongolia welcomed the inclusion of a stand-alone goal to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture as contained in the outcome document of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.

41. Mongolia's agricultural sector contributed about 16 per cent of total GDP, employed 32 per cent of the labour force and accounted for approximately 14 per cent of export revenues. As a result of several campaigns to restore crop production, Mongolia had become self-sufficient in wheat and potatoes, and 55 per cent self-sufficient in overall vegetable production; 80 per cent of agricultural machinery had also been restored. Challenges persisted, however, including insufficient financial resources and technical expertise, a short growing season, extreme weather fluctuations and low precipitation. Closer cooperation with private sector and non-governmental organizations had led to the promotion of crop farming and horticulture development, and ultimately to poverty reduction in rural areas by creating new jobs and business opportunities.

42. As livestock production accounted for 77 per cent of gross agricultural output, her Government was aiming to improve herders' livelihoods. However, the agricultural sector, and particularly livestock rearing, was vulnerable to changing climatic conditions and frequent natural disasters.

43. Mongolia's National Food Security Programme envisaged working more closely with the private sector to improve food self-reliance and to enhance food safety, taking into account the traditional nomadic pastoral system in rural areas, the extreme vulnerability of herders and farmers to climate change, the isolation of many rural households and communities and the highly concentrated urban population. The national target to reduce the percentage of people suffering from malnutrition sixfold was likely to be achieved. However, the double burden of undernutrition and obesity was emerging. In that regard, her delegation looked forward to the adoption, at the second International Conference on Nutrition, of a new global framework designed to adequately address major nutrition challenges over the coming decades.

44. In March 2014, Mongolia had hosted the 32nd session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, which had resulted in strong support for implementation of four regional FAO initiatives: the Zero Hunger Challenge in Asia and the Pacific, the Regional Rice Initiative, Blue Growth, and Value Chains for Food Security and Nutrition in Pacific Island States. Given the progress made in the region, Goal 1 of the MDGs was achievable if countries demonstrated

renewed political commitment, took decisive national action and engaged in effective global partnership.

45. **Mr. Bai** (Fiji) said that food security and nutrition were a prerequisite for sustainable development; however, despite collective efforts, more than 99 million children under the age of five were still underweight and undernourished. It was important to deal with the root causes of the problem, such as poverty and inequity, as well as exacerbating factors such as volatile food prices.

46. As a small island developing State, Fiji faced special challenges in developing national programmes and setting aside the funds necessary for sustainable development solutions. His delegation called for the mobilization of financial resources, as well as enhanced collaboration by relevant international bodies and organizations to assist small island developing States and other developing countries. Enhanced collaboration should include the development of advanced agricultural technology, capacity-building for sustainable agricultural practices, and most importantly, technology transfer to establish the best farming methods. For Pacific islands, challenges relating to food security and nutrition had been compounded by climate change. Changes in sea levels and increasingly frequent and violent natural disasters were disproportionately devastating to the economies of islands, where commercial vegetation had been inundated with salt water, resulting in loss of fertile soil.

47. As a small island developing State with over 300 islands and a population dispersed around remote outlying islands, Fiji was dependent on oceans for nutrition and protein. The livelihoods and food security of much of the population had been heavily compromised as a result of climate change. Recalling the additional challenges facing small island developing States in relation to agricultural trade, he called for fairer trading systems, which should provide for leniency in trade embargoes and trade barriers and the full implementation of the Samoa Pathway. While considerable efforts had been made to address the problems of food security and nutrition, much remained to be done: enhanced collaboration between relevant international bodies and organizations, including FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP), would be necessary.

48. **Mr. Jiménez** (Nicaragua) said that the right to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, as reaffirmed at Rio+20, required a holistic approach to food systems. The world must join forces to avoid recurring global food crises. In addition, food security could be achieved only by ensuring equitable economic growth, job creation, income generation and technological advances, particularly in agriculture. The international community must endeavour to integrate developing countries into international markets in a fair, transparent and sustainable manner.

49. Nicaragua's national strategy of food security and food sovereignty aimed to protect its population from hunger by guaranteeing families, especially those poorest, access to sufficient, nutritious and safe food through a range of actions that included supporting smallholders with credit, supplies and technical assistance, and sending food packets to families affected by climate change. According to FAO, Nicaragua had achieved the Goal 1 of the MDGs — to reduce by half the number of people suffering from hunger. Additionally, WFP and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) had recognized Nicaragua's efforts in improving infant nutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean. The success achieved thus far had been the result of Nicaragua's social policies aimed at fighting poverty and its efforts to invest in microcredit operations and foster the social and economic empowerment of the most vulnerable.

50. Hunger eradication and access to sufficient, safe, available and nutritious food should be included in the post-2015 development agenda. Moreover, steps should be taken to eliminate malnutrition, including undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, obesity and overweight. By 2030, the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity should be achieved, especially through the greater use of traditional knowledge and practices. Smallholder farmers should gain greater access to national and international markets, as well as to technical knowledge and know-how, including through new information and communications technologies. Post-harvest and supply chain food losses should be reduced, while sustainable consumption patterns should be promoted, especially in developed countries. Finally, trade-distorting agricultural subsidies should be eliminated, especially export subsidies in developed countries. Such subsidies greatly harmed developing economies, especially in

least developed countries, and negatively affected employment, rural development and food security.

51. In negotiating the post-2015 development agenda, references to the means of implementation were fundamental for the universal achievement of the sustainable development goals, in accordance with the different historical responsibilities and capabilities of developed and developing countries.

52. **Mr. Kihurani** (Kenya) said that the agricultural sector was the mainstay of the Kenyan economy, contributing some 25 per cent of GDP and approximately 45 per cent of Government revenue. The sector also generated more than 60 per cent of employment opportunities, with over 80 per cent of the rural population deriving its livelihood from agriculture; it was also crucial to the economic growth because it provided markets for farm machinery, equipment and fertilizers and had strong linkages with service industries. Kenya therefore welcomed the inclusion of a goal to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture as contained in the outcome document of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.

53. Regrettably, developing countries remained vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, which compromised food security, a problem which was further compounded by steep production costs, high global food prices and the low purchasing power of the poor.

54. Tackling food insecurity, an as-yet unachieved Millennium Development Goal, remained a priority for Kenya. Even as the world was approaching the MDG deadline, it was estimated that Africa spent close to $35 billion dollars annually to import food — a deplorable situation considering that some 50 per cent of the world's unused arable land was in sub-Saharan Africa. Kenya was finalizing an Agricultural Sector Development Strategy to achieve 10 per cent annual economic growth, as envisaged under the economic pillar of the country's development strategy — Vision 2030 — and thus transform the sector into a profitable economic activity, capable of attracting adequate and sustained private investment and providing gainful employment.

55. Other Government actions included subsidizing farm inputs, offering research and extension services to farmers, improving rural infrastructure, developing rural agricultural markets and agribusiness skills, reviving and expanding irrigation programmes, addressing market distortions and raising the levels of strategic grain reserves. Kenya's policies revolved around increased productivity and income growth, especially for smallholders, the commercialization and intensification of production, participatory policy formulation and environmental sustainability.

56. To address nutrition, Kenya was finalizing a National Nutrition Action Plan and nutrition budgets had been mainstreamed in the Government's broader medium-term development plan, which would help more than half of the population access nutritionally fortified foods over the following five years through public-private partnerships.

57. His delegation welcomed the implementation of the International Year of Family Farming in 2014, which recognized the important contribution that family and smallholder farming played in providing food security, reducing malnutrition and eradicating poverty. Speculative tendencies continued to exacerbate food insecurity in Kenya. Consequently, his delegation supported the call for regulated markets to limit the increasing role of non-commercial actors in the food market. Regulated markets should address market distortions, while protecting the interests of both producers and consumers. Also important was the elimination of all forms of agricultural subsidies and other market-distorting measures taken by developed countries that were not in compliance with WTO rules.

58. **Archbishop Auza** (Observer for the Holy See) said that discussion of agriculture development, food security and nutrition was not and should not become a routine annual exercise, but an occasion to highlight the plight of the millions throughout the world who suffered from chronic hunger and food insecurity, and to remind the international community of the paradox that while so many died of hunger, an enormous quantity of food was also wasted every day.

59. While the 17 per cent decrease reported in people suffering from chronic hunger indicated a measure of effectiveness in the two decades of efforts to reduce hunger, almost 850 million people were still suffering from acute hunger. The eradication of hunger not merely a high priority for development, but a moral imperative. However, it was not owing to lack of food that many suffered from hunger, as current levels of food production worldwide were sufficient to feed everyone. The problem lay in the lack of conservation

technologies among smallholder producers, of government support to incentivize the commercialization of products, and of infrastructure for better food distribution and marketing, and, most regrettably, in the throwaway culture of affluent societies, which including the deliberate large-scale destruction of food products to keep prices and profit margins high.

60. The Holy See welcomed the incorporation of food security, nutrition, and sustainable agriculture in the sustainable development goals and their inclusion in the post-2015 development agenda. It also welcomed the focus of the Secretary-General's report (A/69/279) on agricultural development, food security and nutrition on the groups most vulnerable to hunger and malnutrition, such as women and children under the age of five.

61. The theme of 2014 World Food Day, "Family Farming: Feeding the world, caring for the world", indicated that the family, as a privileged agent for promoting a healthy environment for present and future generations, was key to ending hunger and achieving a sustainable future. The recognition of its role must be accompanied by policies and initiatives that responded to the needs of farming families and communities. In that connection, his delegation looked forward to the second International Conference on Nutrition, which would bring together Government leaders, top-level policymakers and representatives of intergovernmental organizations and civil society to take stock of progress in improving nutrition and seek new ways to boost national and global efforts to improve health.

62. **Mr. Yanga** (Director, Interagency Partnership Division, World Food Programme (WFP)), speaking also on behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), said that the latest State of Food Insecurity Report, jointly published by the three Rome-based agencies, demonstrated continued progress in the reduction of global hunger. That progress notwithstanding, marked differences across regions and within countries persisted, with modest progress in sub-Saharan Africa and Western Asia, even as income poverty had decreased.

63. Policies aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity and increasing food availability, especially those targeting smallholders, were critical for reducing hunger even when poverty was widespread. Greater participation in policy processes and measures to increase market access were key to realizing the full potential of smallholder agriculture. Food insecurity and malnutrition were sometimes exacerbated by price and income swings that significantly affected the poor and hungry, who often opted for cheaper and less nutritious foods as a result.

64. The international community needed to create a food system that could better withstand natural disasters and climate-change related shocks, and that implemented social protection floors and safety nets. If meaningful investments for more resilient food systems were further delayed, the costs of short-term food crises mitigation would grow. Addressing global food challenges would involve dealing with the long-term issues of the ways food was produced, traded and consumed in the face of population growth; increasing demand and climate change; strengthening policies and programmes that enhanced the resilience of populations to shocks; increasing investments and policies aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity, especially for smallholders, as well as increased access to productive assets and markets; and ensuring access to nutritious food for the poorest people. The increasing prevalence of obesity and the closely related expansion of non-communicable diseases must also be factored in alongside other forms of malnutrition.

65. Economic empowerment and social inclusion of women required urgent attention, particularly in rural areas. Women represented 43 per cent of the agricultural workforce worldwide, and rural women played a key role in supporting their households and communities in achieving food and nutrition security, generating income, and improving rural livelihoods and overall well-being.

66. The incremental social and economic cost of stunting, which was a greater problem for African children currently than 20 years prior, was estimated between 1.9 and 16.5 per cent of GDP, thus revealing the importance of addressing undernutrition and stunting in the post-2015 agenda. The Zero Hunger Challenge provided a compelling vision on how to galvanize multisectoral engagement in order to accelerate efforts to achieve food and nutrition security. Likewise, the "Scaling Up Nutrition" movement was instrumental in driving policy and action and fostering greater collaboration between Governments, United Nations agencies and the public and private sectors.

67. The Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems, recently adopted by the Committee on World Food Security, were designed to enable larger and more sustainable investment in agriculture; transforming the Principles into reality alongside the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure would lead to improved food security and sustainability while respecting the rights of farm and food workers.

68. Achieving a healthy, hunger-free world in a sustainable manner demanded a long-term commitment to mainstreaming food security and nutrition in public policies and programmes. The Rome-based agencies therefore welcomed Goal 2 as proposed by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.